

1206/13

L. XVI. ANT.

,

•

.

ı . , • , s





žiną.

· .



OBSERVATIONS

ON

EMETIC TARTAR,

&c.

Digitized by the Internet Archive in 2017 with funding from Wellcome Library

OBSERVATIONS,

WITH

CASES

ILLUSTRATIVE OF

The Sedative and Febrifuge Powers

OF

EMETIC TARTAR.

BY

WILLIAM BALFOUR, M. D.

Est modus in rebus; sunt certi denique fines.

HORACE.

Edinburgh:

PRINTED FOR PETER HILL & CO. HIGH STREET;
LONGMAN, HURST, REES, ORME, & BROWN, LONDON;
REID & HENDERSON, GLASGOW; AND
JOHNSTON & DEAS, DUBLIN.

1818.

John Pillans, Printer.



Harris Trees, and the

1840

OBSERVATIONS

ON

EMETIC TARTAR,

&c.

One of the greatest bars to improvement in the practice of medicine is, the supine belief that nothing can be added to our knowledge of the qualities of those remedies which have been long in use. Hence it is, that the greater number of those who are stimulated by the noble ambition of distinguishing themselves as the benefactors of mankind, direct their efforts to the discovery of new remedies, instead of instituting experiments with those whose medicinal powers are demonstrated. But I be-

lieve it will be conceded by the liberal and well-informed of the profession, that much may yet be discovered with regard to the powers of those medicines even, which have been in use from time immemorial, and which are familiar to every practitioner. It is well known, that doses of medicines have been given by mistake, which no practitioner would have been justified in prescribing; and, instead of doing mischief, produced only the desired effect. Such occurrences are of themselves sufficient, one would think, to excite the most indolent to observation, and to convince the inquisitive, that his knowledge is imperfect. Despicable indeed must that practitioner be, who, from beginning to end of his career, is regulated entirely by the general directions of a dispensatory in his exhibition of medicines,—who will not take a single step unless he can quote an authority. It is well known, that an ordinary dose of medicine will at one time

prove hyper-cathartic, and at another time quite inefficient, in the same individual. Is it not therefore a fair inference, that much remains to be discovered with regard to the powers of medicine in different diseases, and in different circumstances of the system in the same disease? Is it not rendered more than probable, that trials of increased doses of medicine, consistently with perfect safety to the patient, in one case, or one disease, and diminished doses in others, would, if conducted with accurate observation, produce results with which we are altogether unacquainted? Medical practitioners, no doubt, imagined they were sufficiently well acquainted with purgative medicines, before Dr Hamilton wrote on the subject. But he has given a different view of the matter; and there are few practitioners, I believe, who will not own their obligations to that distinguished author. Were such mode of investigation, as that I have hinted at,

more generally practised, physicians would find themselves under less necessity of hunting after new remedies; they would find the tenth of what they already possess more than sufficient for all the purposes of practice; they would become like dextrous surgeons, who depend more on their own management and skill, than on number of instruments. One thing must be admitted, for it is universally true, that the most skilful practitioners prescribe the fewest medicines. It is those who practise from mere authority, at random and by rote, who pour mixture upon mixture into their patients, and fly from medicine to medicine, in order to accomplish their purpose,—thereby rendering the means of cure infinitely more insupportable to their patients than the disease itself. The scientific practitioner, on the contrary, when his prescriptions are not attended with the desired effect, suspects the accuracy of his own observation, or of the information he

may have obtained as to the state of his patient; and therefore inquires more minutely into the circumstances of the case; varies the dose instead of changing the medicine, or omits medicine altogether; well knowing, that it can never be other than an auxiliary to nature, in the combats she has to sustain with disease.

EMETIC TARTAR has been in use ever since the introduction of chemical medicines into practice, and every author has been loud in its praise. It is very questionable, however, that its employment has been as universal, as the encomiums bestowed on it would indicate. This much I can assert, that I have been in the habit, for many years, of meeting with the most eminent practitioners in this city, who never once hinted at the employment of antimonials, in even the most acute inflammatory diseases. I have, moreover, made inquiry of my professional friends,—gentle-

men in extensive practice, what their experience was on this head? and, to a man, they frankly acknowledge that, though they knew Emetic Tartar to be an excellent medicine, in nauseating doses, as promoting perspiration without heating the system, yet they never entertained the view that I have given of it;—that "the sedative and febrifuge powers of Emetic Tartar," is a phrase quite new to them;—and that they never trusted to it as calculated to save a single ounce of blood to any patient, in any circumstances.

With Dr Cullen, Emetic Tartar was a favourite remedy. This appears from his First Lines. I have been told, but I do not believe it, that he carried this medicine an unjustifiable length. The only subject of regret, however, is, his recommending it, wherever he speaks of it, in nauseating doses. Had not this been the case, the authority of so great a man must infallibly have rendered the employment of it much

more general than it has yet been. Nausea is an unpleasant feeling; nor is it easy to induce patients to swallow the medicine a second time, which is sure to produce it. Practitioners, too, who suffer themselves to be influenced chiefly by appearances, would naturally conclude against a remedy which, unless exhibited with judgement and caution, is violent in its operation, and which, in the days of Dr Cullen, was comparatively new. Hence, together with the aversion manifested to it by a great living character, the almost total neglect Emetic Tartar has experienced in this country. Even at this day, it is in nauseating doses only the remedy is recommended, and in constitutional derangement alone; or where local affection is so considerable as to give reason to apprehend constitutional derangement. I trust, however, to be able to shew, that Emetic Tartar is eminently efficacious in chronic, as well as in acute disorders; in topical affections, as well as in general derangement; and that its efficacy, in either case, is not confined to nauseating doses. Nay, more, I will demonstrate that, in many cases of local inflammation, accompanied with violent re-action, blood-letting to one-third the extent generally practised, is not necessary to the cure; that a speedy and perfect cure can be obtained with the loss of so moderate a quantity of blood, as to warrant the conclusion, that it might be safely omitted altogether, even in circumstances in which it is generally considered the only means of saving the patient.

It is on all hands agreed, that blood taken from a large orifice, in other words, quickly, so as to produce syncope, has more decided effects in sthenic inflammation, than a large quantity taken slowly, or at different times. Does not this suggest, that neither the quantity of blood in the system, nor the quality, is the cause of the disease? and therefore, that excessive

blood-letting is not necessary to the cure? Does it not point out, that if, by any other means than blood-letting, the same degree of relaxation of the system could be induced, as takes place in syncope; equally beneficial results might be obtained, as to lowering arterial action, and resolving congestion? I think it more than probable, that, even in the severest case of sthenic inflammation, Emetic Tartar may be so exhibited, as, after one or two bleedings, according to circumstances, to supersede the farther use of the lancet. And, would not this be a mighty object gained? If such a thing is possible, why should practitioners continue to abstract sixty, a hundred, two hundred ounces of blood, from a person labouring under pneumonia? A recovery after such practice is, in many instances, an escape, not a cure! Is it consistent with any principle, that life should be reduced to the last ebb, without regard to age, habit, or constitution, on account of the recurrence of pain in the chest, and difficulty of breath-

ing, when we possess the means of equalizing the circulation, without producing corresponding debility? The Diathesis Phlogistica of authors, or the preternaturally increased tone or contractility of the arterial system, -- sometimes induced by any considerable local inflammation, at others, the effect of general causes, and always tending to congestion, is most readily and effectually taken off by the relaxing power of blood-letting; which ought, therefore, in pressing circumstances, to be first employed. What I contend for is, There is no necessity, in even the most urgent case, for carrying the lancet the length of "giving the patient the chance;" that is, of nearly bleeding him to death, in order to save his life. But blood-letting operates in two ways, in lowering the action of the system in inflammatory affections. In the first place, the distension of the arterial system is mechanically taken off. In the second place, the stimulus of the blood itself is

diminished, and consequently the action of the heart, as depending on that stimulus. For, in proportion as the quantum of red particle is lessened, the circulating mass must lose its exciting powers. Hence the debility consequent on excessive loss of blood. To moderate vascular action, therefore, without inducing dangerous debility, must be the leading indications in inflammatory complaints. And these indications will be best fulfilled, by keeping in view the primary affection. That the nervous system is first affected, in the commencement of febrile complaints, we know, from the change of feeling, and prostration of strength experienced. Afterwards, the vascular system becomes affected, and the circle is completely formed; the nervous and vascular systems now act reciprocally on each other. The timeous application, therefore, of means suited to remove the primary affection,—of the warm-bath, friction and percussion,—the latter to the

Emetic Tartar, in doses proportioned to the urgency of the case,—would go far, in many cases, to prevent re-action altogether; and consequently the necessity of bloodletting. At all events, Emetic Tartar, from its natural and powerful tendency to equalize the nervous power, cannot fail, even where blood-letting is necessary in the first instance, to supersede the necessity of recurring to it so often, and carrying it to that degree, which are found necessary, when the lancet alone is trusted to, for the removal of inflammatory complaints.

Should it be said that, if the nervous and arterial systems act reciprocally on each other in supporting re-action, blood-letting must be beneficial in diminishing the morbid influence of the latter on the former; I admit the justness of the observation. For, it must be recollected, I am not combating blood-letting in toto: I object only to its being carried beyond just bounds,—to its

being employed singly and alone in any important case,—and to its being had recourse to on every frivolous occasion. It must be admitted, moreover, by the most strenuous advocate for blood-letting, that in a case of inflammation, where depletion has been practised on a liberal scale, the arterial must have ceased to influence the nervous system, in a morbid degree, long before it becomes necessary, in order to obtain more blood, to place the head lower than the trunk of the body, that the brain may receive from the heart that support, without which it cannot perform its functions.

From this view of the subject, I think I may affirm, without fear of being successfully contradicted, that there is neither safety nor science in carrying blood-letting to the extremes so much in vogue in the present day. That the practice is in many instances little less dangerous than the disease it is intended to cure, will be conceded,

I believe, by its most strenuous advocates; that it is, in many instances, really more so, is confirmed by every day's experience. And, from many considerations, it may be demonstrated, a priori, that it cannot but be fatal. Nature will conquer many dreadful attacks of disease; but if her resources are exhausted, she must succumb. Suppose a person, advanced in life, and who had been accustomed to live fully, to be all at once, when in perfect good health, put upon watergruel and purgatives, and to have twentyfive or thirty ounces of blood taken every day, for three, four, or five days successively; What condition would this person be in at the end of such a process of privation and exhaustion? But if, in addition to these, he had also laboured under distress of body, and anxiety of mind, the danger of his situation would be much increased. Is it reasonable to expect that nature will triumph over such fearful odds?

But the immediate consequences of exhaustion are not alone to be dreaded, from the unlimited use of the lancet. The blood is the source of all the fluids of the body. If, therefore, that is greatly deteriorated, so must these; and all the functions to which they are subservient, impaired. Hence the tendency to putridity, in the fluids of those who have suffered great loss of blood. I once saw a lad, fifteen years of age, labouring under peumonia, and from whom sixtyfour ounces of blood were abstracted in the course of three days. He became extremely languid, and his whole skin of a deathlike appearance. In examining the trunk of the body, I drew my finger lightly across his breast, when the cuticle came off, and a watery fluid exuded from every pore. Contrary to the strict orders of his physician, I gave him half a glass of port wine, and repeated it at short intervals, for several times. From that moment the boy did well. Many a patient, there is little

doubt, whose constitution resists for a time the shock of sudden exhaustion, ultimately falls a sacrifice to its consequences.

The cure of inflammatory complaints by blood-letting, without the aid of those remedies which more directly affect the nervous system, is certainly not the most scientific mode of proceeding. It is, at best, but curing by anticipation, or by obviating the effects of the primary affection, leaving this to shift for itself. If re-action has taken place before the physician is called in, blood-letting, as already observed, may be necessary; because increased arterial action, at first an effect, now acts as a cause. But certainly attention is even then due to the primary affection. And, if due attention is paid to it, its effects will be more easily controuled. The advocates for the unlimited use of the lancet, however, follow a more summary method. They cure their patients in the same way the Romans gave peace to the countries they

invaded; and that was, by making the blood of the inhabitants to flow, till they became perfectly passive. This is lowering the action of the system, with a vengeance. But it will be found, that, as certainly as the action of the arterial depends on that of the nervous system, so certainly will those remedies which tend to equalize the nervous power, supersede the necessity of unlimited blood-letting.

These observations being intended as introductory only to a more extended discussion of the subjects herein mentioned, I proceed to a detail of facts, illustrative of the efficacy of Emetic Tartar in chronic, equally as in acute inflammation.

CASE I.

Mr S. aged thirty, was attacked on the 7th October 1817, with pneumonia, for which he was bled to sixty ounces in three successive days; and on the 15th, again to twenty ounces. Having got out, in about three weeks after this, he was again seized with pain in the breast, and difficulty of breathing, accompanied with much higher fever than in the first attack. He was bled to twenty-six ounces, with relief at the time; but in twenty-four hours after, all the symptoms returned with increased violence. Afraid of the patient's strength failing, as his feet were now become œdematous, I was unwilling to carry blood-letting any farther. I therefore ordered an ounce of a solution of two grains of Emetic Tartar in six ounces of water, to be given every hour. The third dose produced sickness; and with it, relief from pain. In four days, the patient was free from complaint in his chest. About the middle of February, he had another attack of pneumonia, which again yielded to Emetic Tartar, without blood-letting being premised. Had I, in this instance, continued to trust to the lancet for subduing the inflammatory action that existed, thoracic effusion would have been induced, and I would infallibly have killed my patient.

CASE II.

George Page, aged 36, a mason, had the outside of his right leg, from a little below the knee to the ankle, grazed by a plank in the falling of a scaffold, on the 25th

November 1817. Having, by compression with the hand, reduced the tumour formed at the outside by the violence of the squeeze, and applied a bandage to support the parts, I ordered a poultice to the parts higher up, which were abraded, and whose organization, I was convinced, was destroyed.

On the fourth day the patient could walk through the house, and the parts abraded had assumed a black appearance. I therefore expected they would have separated without occasioning any derangement of the system. On the fifth day, however, I found the patient in a career of fever which I have seldom witnessed. I hesitated a moment, whether I should bleed him copiously; but preferred exhibiting an ounce every hour, till nausea should be produced, of a solution of Emetic Tartar, -half a grain to the ounce of water. The third dose occasioned sickness. His friends imagined him dying, but he told them he was prepared to expect such effects from

the medicine. He took no more of it. Next day he was as free from fever as he had never had any. The gangrened part separated, and the wound healed up kindly.

CASE III.

MRS B. aged fifty-five, a thin, delicate, complaining woman, was attacked in January last with pain in the chest, difficulty of breathing, and fever. She had struggled with her complaints some days before I was called. I found her extremely weak, pain in the breast fixed, severe, and impeding respiration to a distressing degree; pulse 100, small and hard. She complained also of being drenched in sweat every night; but especially towards morning, and on the head and superior parts of the

body chiefly. I ordered her a solution of four grains of Emetic Tartar in eight ounces of water. Of this she was to take a table-spoonful four times in the twentyfour hours, unless such quantity sickened her; in which case the dose was to be diminished, so as not to occasion nausea. In five days, the pain in the breast was removed, and she could make a full inspiration. Debility and night-sweats were now her only complaints. For these I had recourse to nitrate of silver in the form of pill,—a fourth of a grain a dose, three times a-day. The power of this medicine, in checking the sweating, was almost immediately felt; and the patient gained strength daily. In ten days from the time I was called in, I took leave of this lady,-restored to a greater degree of health and strength than she had for a long time enjoyed.

CASE IV.

Mrs P. contracted a bad cold in the course of the winter, which continued for many weeks. Cough became at last incessant, accompanied with increased soreness of the chest, and difficulty of breathing. I was called on the 12th March, and found her pulse 58, oppressed and interrupted. No voice. She declined being bled. I therefore ordered as follows:

R. Tart. antimon. et potass. gr. ii. Sulphat. magnes. zi. Aq. font. zviii. Solve.

Capiat cochlear. mag. omni hora, usque ad nauseam ciendam.

13th.—Had not taken above three ounces of the medicine, for dread of sickness. All the symptoms much the same as yesterday. I now insisted on letting blood, but could procure no more than 14 ounces, on ac-

count of the patient fainting. Continue the medicine as formerly directed.

14th.—Pulse still 58, and oppressed, but less interrupted. Some voice. Cough greatly abated. Some expectoration. Bowels regular. Continue the medicine.

15th.—Pulse 62, less oppressed, and quite regular. Cough almost gone. Voice restored, and breathing perfectly free. Fine diaphoresis. Continue the medicine. I had now no fear of re-action taking place, though the circulation was not so free as I could have wished. From the moment, indeed, that the patient took her medicine as directed, every symptom gave way; and she never had the slightest degree of sickness. Within a week from the time I first saw the patient, she was perfectly free from complaint; and the pulse had risen to 70, without any increase of heat.

CASE V.

Mrs M. aged twenty-six, was seized on the 27th March, with a violent pain in the left lumbar region, reaching round to the pubes. She could neither rise up nor sit down without crying out. Pulse 80, strong and hard. I ordered four grains of Emetic Tartar, and an ounce of Epsom salts, in eight ounces of water; of this, a table spoonful every hour for three times, and afterwards every two hours. three first doses operated powerfully on both stomach and bowels. On the 28th, the pulse was still at 80, but soft and full. Applied compression and percussion to the pained parts, by which the patient was enabled to move with ease. In the evening I found my patient much worse, on account of having used freedom with herself in the course of the day. Had taken none of her medicine. Her pulse was increased

in hardness, frequency, and force. A fixed pain in the chest, right side, affected respiration strongly. In one word, she was precisely in a state that, according to modern practice, demanded an immediate and free use of the lancet. I diluted the medicine, and represented the danger of not complying with directions. This had the desired effect. She took her medicine freely; and next day at noon, I found her free from complaint, her pulse 60, and pain in the chest gone entirely.

In communicating to my friend Dr Anderson of New York, the observations I had made on the sedative and febrifuge powers of Emetic Tartar, he informed me that, so far as he could learn, this medicine is much more generally employed in America than in this country. On coming to particulars, however, he admitted that my language concerning it was new to him; that he never heard it talked of as sedative and febrifuge; nor of its being capable of

superseding blood-letting in inflammation, to the degree I have observed it; an observation, however, which he has amply confirmed by the two following excellent cases. I set the more value on these cases, that they were communicated by one who was sceptical on the subject at the time they occurred, and who is well qualified to appreciate the power of medicine. They are, in one word, the tribute of an enlightened, liberal, unbiassed mind; and I shall present them to the reader in the author's own words.

CASE VI.

"Buccleugh Place, Feb. 28. 1818.
"Dear Sir,

"I send you the following case of Cynanche Tonsillaris, in consequence of our

late conversation on the beneficial effects of Tart. Antimon, when exhibited in inflammatory and some other diseases. A young lady aged twenty, of a thin habit of body, was attacked on the 16th February with difficult and painful deglutition. On the 17th she took some opening medicine; but finding herself considerably worse, she requested me to see her on the 18th. Upon examination, I found both tonsils much swelled and inflamed, the left considerably more so than the right, the velum pendulum palati elongated, and the uvula laying on the dorsum of the tongue, and the tongue considerably swelled, skin hot and dry, pulse 107. I desired her to take an ounce of the sulphate of magnesia, and to repeat it in three or four hours if necessary,—to apply the liniment. ammoniat. fort. diligently to the neck, to bathe the feet in warm water, and to foment the throat with steam arising from a decoction of chamomile flowers and poppy heads. She felt a little relieved in

the evening, but there was no sensible amendment in the throat. 19th, increased difficulty in swallowing, and pain extending to the left ear. The throat was of a darker colour, with several small whitish specks on the left tonsil. Skin hot and dry; pulse 120; ordered a solution of gr. iv. tart. antimon. in eight ounces of water, a table spoonful every hour, till vomiting should be produced. This was effected after the third dose, when a small quantity of bilious matter was discharged. A copious perspiration followed, which was allowed to subside, and gentle diaphoresis was kept up by a table spoonful every hour, of a solution of two grains tart. antimon. in eight ounces of water. 20th, passed a good night; skin cool and moist; pulse 78, pain in the ear entirely gone, and swelling in the fauces very much abated. Nothing further was required in this case, than an astringent gargle to restore tone to the parts. 22d, The patient was engaged in

her usual avocations, with little or no diminution of strength.

It appears to me, that, according to the present fashionable mode of practice, if I may be allowed the expression, this lady would have come cheaply off with the loss of from thirty to forty ounces of blood. Indeed, on the 19th, I doubted whether the urgency of the symptoms did not require blood-letting. But the delicate habit of the patient, with the malignant appearance of the fauces, and my firm conviction, from several cases you related to me, of the efficacy of this important remedy in inflammatory diseases, induced me to rely upon it as the principal means of cure.

(Signed) "James Anderson, M. D."

It is not uncommon, certainly, to administer emetics in the beginning of this disease; and they are often attended with the happiest effects. The local inflammation is thereby mechanically discussed. But

who ever heard of cynanche tonsillaris, where the local affection was so severe, and fever ran so high, being cured in one night, after having existed for four days?

On the 19th, the pulse was 120; on the 20th, 78,—with correspondent amendment of all the other symptoms. Blood-letting, to any extent, could not have done more than was, in this instance, effected by two or three grains of Emetic Tartar!

CASE VII.

"Buccleugh Place, April 9. 1818.
"Dear Sir,

"The following is a case of inflammation in the lungs, in which tart. antimon. was liberally and successfully employed. A young man aged eighteen, of a spare habit

of body, sent for me on the evening of the 10th March. He complained of general uneasiness, pain in the head, short dry cough. Upon taking a full inspiration, felt a slight pain high up in the right breast. Skin warm, tongue foul, bowels costive, pulse 97. Ordered an ounce of the sulphate of magnesia immediately, and to be repeated if necessary. After the bowels were freely opened, to take of a solution of four grains Tart. Antimon. in eight ounces of water, a table spoonful every hour till sickness or vomiting came on. March 11th. Has taken three doses sulph. magnes. which did not remain upon his stomach. Has had no evacuation of the bowels, consequently did not take any of the solution. Passed a sleepless night; breathing short and quick; pain in the chest very much increased; skin hot and dry; tongue foul; short, dry, distressing cough; pulse 132. The urgency of the symptoms warranted blood-letting to a considerable extent; but

being desirous of giving the Tart. Antimon. a fair trial in a case so favourable for it, I extracted only ten ounces of blood, merely to take off the pressure of present symptoms, and to give time for the Tart. Antimon. to produce its effect. Ordered pulv. jalap. comp. 3ss. Sub-muriat. hydrar. gr. vi. m.; and a table spoonful of the solution every half-hour.—3 o'Clock P. M. The powder has operated four times; has taken six doses of the solution; does not feel sick; has less pain; coughs easier, and expectorates freely; skin moist; pulse 120; feels much relieved. Desired him to continue the solution every hour if awake.

March 12.—Slept tolerably well; has taken five doses of the solution since yesterday; perspired a great deal during the night; feels a very slight pain upon taking a full inspiration; no sickness; has had no farther evacuation from the bowels; skin moist; tongue foul; pulse 98. Ordered sulphat. magnes. 3ss.; and to continue the

solution every hour. 13th.—Slept well; feels no pain; tongue much cleaner; skin moist and cool; bowels open; has some appetite; wishes to get out of bed; pulse ranges from 74 to 78. 14th, 15th, 16th.—Has taken the solution occasionally; is perfectly well, and almost as strong as before his illness.

"It must be evident to every unprejudised person, that the small quantity of blood taken in this case could have very little effect in permanently reducing the inflammatory action. It is unnecessary to make any farther observations, as the facts above stated appear to me to be quite conclusive.

(Signed) "James Anderson, M.D."

The sum of this case is, that pneumonia of uncommon severity was cured, in two days, by Emetic Tartar, aided by the mission of only ten ounces of blood, and

a purgative. Nor was there the slightest degree of nausea during the whole cure.

If Emetic Tartar has not been strangely neglected, and its powers under-rated, how comes it, that blood-letting is resorted to on every emergency, and carried such lengths as are recommended from every chair, and inculcated by every author? If practitioners believed they were possessed of a remedy capable of curing such a case of pneumonia as that now detailed, they would quickly perceive the absurdity of trusting to the lancet alone, in any the most urgent circumstances. That medicine which can, of itself, cure a case of pneumonia of uncommon severity, must be a powerful auxiliary to blood-letting in the worst possible case of inflammation.

CASE VIII.

Mr W. was attacked on the 17th December 1817, early in the morning, with pain in the great toe, at the instep, reaching through to the sole, and round the outer ankle of the right foot. I was called to him in the course of the day, and found the parts swelled, excruciatingly pained, and of a fiery red. Pulse 80. From my patient having had several attacks of gout before, there was no room to doubt that his present complaint was of the same nature. I proposed to bathe the parts with spirits and water of a temperature with that of the parts,—a practice I followed, particularly in the case of Sir Thomas Troubridge in 1815, before Dr Scudamore published on gout. To this the patient objected, on the score of his having been treated in the same way once before, when he had a slow recovery. I applied compression with my

hand, dipped in flour, for a few minutes, which he bore very well, though friction would have made him mad. Ordered a solution of two grains of Emetic Tartar in six ounces of water, of which he was directed to take an ounce every two hours.

Dec. 18.—Passed a very restless night. Pulse 96, and hard, with stitch in the right side,—increased by coughing or a full inspiration. Had taken very little of his medicine. I now informed him, that if he did not take his medicine as prescribed, I would be under the necessity of bleeding him freely, by which he might lay his account with being much longer confined than he otherwise would be. This had the desired effect, as he regretted absence from business much. This day he took his medicine steadily, with the addition of two drachms compound powder of jalap. In the evening I found his pulse much fuller and softer, with an agreeable diaphoresis all over the body; stitch in the side

declining, and the purgative had operated briskly.—Dec. 19th. Passed the night very well; no uneasiness from the foot; redness and swelling declining; pulse 86, full and soft. Continue the antimonial mixture in quantity to maintain a softness of the skin. Dec. 20th. Pulse natural; stitch gone; bowels regular. But the patient cannot point his foot to the ground. Applied percussion gently all over the sole, and then a bandage. In the evening could walk a little. Repeated the operation and bandage. Next day, 21st, could walk pretty well. On the 22d, walked perfectly well.

On the 25th, my patient sent for me to his counting-room, when he told me his right foot was as bad as his left had been, and that he could not point it to the ground, were he to be made proprietor of Edinburgh for so doing. Admitted he had got a fresh cold; pulse rising and hard. Applied percussion to the sole of the foot for

some minutes, when the patient was immediately enabled to walk. Gave him a slightly nauseating dose of his antimonial medicine. He dined in his counting-room, and walked home at eight o'clock. Passed an uncomfortable night. Next day resumed his antimonial medicine, none of which he had taken during the night. This day he took six drachms sulphat. magnes. also. 27th. Was free from complaint, with the exception of being slightly lame. Two more doses, therefore, of percussion, exhibited on the morning and evening of this day, completed the cure; and the patient went abroad on the 28th in perfect good health, which he has enjoyed uninterruptedly ever since.

All the authors and practitioners, without exception, whom I have had an opportunity of consulting, recommend Emetic Tartar in *nauseating* doses,—with the view of producing sensible effects on the skin. I am quite prepared, however, to shew, that its exhibition is not confined to cases of high re-action; and that its beneficial influence does not always depend on its producing nausea; that, on the contrary, it operates powerfully as a sedative, and equalizes the circulation in cases of local inflammation, where no re-action exists,—without producing nausea, or any sensible effect whatever on the skin.

In cases of high re-action, it is adviseable and necessary to induce, as quickly as possible, that temporary debility which is the consequence of nausea, and by which every considerable operation of the animal machine is lowered; but it is for want of observation, that nausea is so generally made the criterion of an efficient dose of Emetic Tartar.

Emetic Tartar, though a perfectly safe remedy, yet requires to be exhibited with caution. In some constitutions it produces nausea and vomiting, in even the minutest doses; to others it may be given with freedom, without being attended with any such consequences. Nor have I observed it less beneficial in the latter, than in the former cases. Some people are nauseated by the first or second, and not by succeeding doses of the same quantity; others are not sensibly affected till the medicine accumulates its powers, as it were, in the system; and in all this variety of idiosyncracy, it still lowers the action of the system and of every considerable operation in it.

CASE IX.

A MAN aged thirty-six, of a spare habit of body, was seized instantaneously on the 22d January, while from home, with lum-

bago. And so excruciating was the pain, that he was driven home, laid at full length in a cart. I visited him next day, and found he could not even turn himself in bed without extreme suffering. Pulse 60, and oppressed. He was averse to bloodletting, so I ordered him four grains Emetic Tartar in eight ounces of water, of which he was to take an ounce every hour till sickness or vomiting ensued. 24th, Has taken all the medicine, without any other sensible effect, than that he can turn himself in bed, rise up and lie down, with much greater ease. Pulse below 60, and oppressed; bowels natural. Repeat the mixture. 25th, Pain in the recumbent posture gone; can turn himself any way he pleases, and stoop almost to the ground without much uneasiness. Bowels regular, pulse above 60, and less oppressed. 26th, Has been out of bed most of yesterday; pulse natural. Thinks there is a little moisture on his skin in the morning, but

is certain the medicine keeps his bowels in order. As the patient complained of want of rest, he had an opiate at bed-time. He also continued his antimonial mixture, but less frequently, through the day; and from this date he rapidly recovered.

Here then, is a case, in which local congestion and pain affecting the circulation, and from which violent re-action was to be apprehended, was resolved and subdued by Emetic Tartar, without producing nausea, or any decidedly sensible effects on the skin. Nausea, and its effects on the skin, are therefore contingent consequences of the exhibition of Emetic Tartar. That is to say, they may happen in one case, and not in another; they may occur at one time, and not at another, in the same individual; and yet the medicine produce the desired effects in all.

CASE X.

CAPTAIN B. applied to me on the 12th December last, for a rheumatic affection in his right shoulder, and left elbow-joint. He could neither put on nor off his coat without aid; and was deprived of sleep, by the pain in the elbow attacking him in the night, in paroxyms of such severity as to make him cry out. In ten minutes I gave freedom of motion in the shoulder; and the pain in the elbow was coerced in a considerable degree by a bandage, but not removed. On the 13th he did not go abroad, and when I visited him at 3 P. M. found a slight degree of fever present. Two grains of Emetic Tartar in six ounces of water were ordered; of this the patient was directed to take a table spoonful every hour, till nausea supervened. 14th, Had taken most of his medicine, without nausea or any sensible perspiration. Slept well,

having had but one attack of pain in the night, which was instantly checked by percussion. 15th, 16th, Sleeps without interruption, and is free from complaint.

CASE XI.

About the middle of January, William Paterson, a poor lad, aged nineteen, came to my house at nine o'clock at night, with one arm of a ragged coat on, and another off, complaining most grievously of pain in his elbow-joint. There was much swelling round the joint, and a considerable way both above and below it. I handled the parts as the patient could suffer me, but had no bandage to apply. In a few minutes he began crying like a child. I asked if I had hurt him? He assured me,

not; but that he was sure a snow-shower was falling; for the pain was always much exasperated by such an occurrence. I looked out, and found his conjecture correct. I gave him three ounces of antimonial mixture, in which was a grain and a half Emetic Tartar; directing the one half to be taken as soon as the patient got home, and the other half in an hour after. Next morning it was reported to me, he slept all night, a few minutes only excepted, when he experienced a slight paroxysm; and I ordered the medicine to be continued. On the third day after his applying to me, I visited the patient, as the physician whose care he was under before he came to me. had not, he said, called on him for some time. I found him lying at ease; the swelling reduced two-thirds; the pain, even to the touch, entirely gone, except in a single point in the bend of the arm. Six grains of Emetic Tartar in twelve ounces of water, was the amount of the medicine

taken. It produced not the slightest nausea; nor any observable increase of perspiration, for thirty-six hours. It then began to operate powerfully on the skin. But before this took place, pain was completely subdued. Indeed, he had but one return of pain, and for a few minutes only, after he began the medicine. I applied compression to the pained point, first with my hand, and then with a bandage,—including the whole of the parts that had been swelled. Two more operations gave complete motion to the joint; and the patient was at his work in a week.

This and the preceding case afford one of the finest illustrations of the power of medicine, that perhaps ever occurred to any practitioner; and exhibit the sedative qualities of Emetic Tartar in a striking point of view. Nor is it possible to adduce more satisfactory instances of a constitutional remedy affecting parts in a state

of morbid action, without producing correspondent, or sensible effects on the system.

In these cases, the natural tendency of Emetic Tartar to affect the stomach and the skin, seems to have been counteracted by a superior determination to the parts affected. Or they verify the observation, that where there is much local pain, the doses of medicines require to be greatly increased, to produce their effects on the system. Here, too, I may remark, that if, as some think, the proximate cause of rheumatism consists in a peculiar affection of the nervous system,—particularly of the nerves of the parts affected; then the two immediately preceding cases prove, that Emetic Tartar exerts a directly sedative power on the nervous system. Paterson remarked, sua sponte, that he felt the first doses of the medicine go directly to the pained part, producing the sensation of an agreeable motion all over it.

Dr Barlow of Bath, in an ingenious and able essay *, relates some cases of rheumatism, which he quickly cured by Emetic Tartar,—exhibited in doses sufficient to stagger the resolution of even the boldest practitioner. The Doctor himself does not recommend the general adoption of the practice; and if the cases which I have detailed shall come to his knowledge, he will see, that it is not necessary to the cure of the most excruciating case of rheumatism;—he will see that Emetic Tartar effects as complete cures, when exhibited in doses insufficient to produce any sensible evacuation, as when accumulated in the system to the amount of sixteen grains. The unavoidable consequence is, that Dr Barlow proceeds on assumed data, that morbid secretion in the stomach and bowels are not the cause of rheumatic pains and stiffness of the joints.

^{*} Edin. Med. & Surg. Journal, vol. x.

It will be denied by none, I presume, that morbid secretions in the stomach and bowels may, and do exist, in a greater or less degree, in every constitutional derangement,—that such secretions may occasion sympathies in distant parts,—that they may be both a cause and an effect of constitutional derangement,—that general health is preserved and promoted, by the frequent evacuation of the stomach and bowels; but to attribute to morbid secretions alone, in the stomach and bowels, effects which are so much under the controul of external circumstances,—effects which may exist to-day and not to-morrow, while the cause remains the same; is to refer to a uniform cause, effects which are variable and inconstant, not only in degree, but as to their very existence.

Emetic Tartar, in doses of seven or eight times the medium quantity for an emetic, must produce, it may well be supposed, both copious and discoloured evacuations from the stomach and bowels. The secretion into these cavities must be greatly increased, during violent purging and vomiting; so that much more will ultimately be discharged, than really existed at the commencement of the process.

The violent excitement of any organ will, by concentrating the nervous energy, relieve, for a time, every other part from pain.

But violent vomiting and purging give a tremendous concussion to the whole frame, and powerfully excite the action of the absorbents. Vascular congestion, therefore, cannot but be strongly affected by them. It is on the very same principle then, with compression and percussion, that vomiting relieves congestion in rheumatism. The only difference is, that in the one case, the remedy is applied through the system; in the other, mechanically and directly to the parts affected. In the one case, the efforts of the whole system

are put in requisition for the relief of a part; in the other, the part is relieved without the system being so much as aware of it. Compression and percussion, by simply unloading and exciting the action of the vessels, give as complete relief from pain and swelling in rheumatism, as the most excessive evacuations, of whatever kind, can accomplish. The effects of Emetic Tartar in the cure of rheumatism, are therefore, not to be attributed to the dislodgement of either morbid or morbific matter from the stomach and bowels.

We have a fine illustration of the power of concussion in equalizing the circulation, in sneezing. This is an effort of nature to prevent the determination of blood to the head, and to resolve congestion already formed, in catarrhal affections. Every body knows the universal and forcible concussion the body receives, and the relief obtained, on these occasions. This effort of nature can be imitated by percussion ap-

plied to the shoulders, and the whole length of the spine. I have done it a thousand times, with perfect relief from violent headache, and every catarrhal symptom. We never attribute the effects of emetics in dropsy, or hernia humoralis, to the evacuations which are made from the stomach and bowels; but to the action excited in the system. And I am convinced, that Emetic Tartar owes more of its febrifuge powers, in the commencement of fever, to its equalizing the circulation, and therefore lowering the action of the system, than to the displacement of either morbid or morbific matter.

Let any one contemplate Dr Cullen's inimitable description of the phenomena of fever, and say, if the nervous system is not primarily affected? if to this cause are not referable all the succeeding phenomena of irregular and oppressed action in the first place, and in the second place, the reaction of the arterial system? Emetic Tar-

tar, therefore, having a direct influence on the nervous system, prevents or moderates its re-action; and consequently that of the arterial system, independently of any evacuation it may occasion.

CASE XII.

On the 30th April, a servant girl twenty-six years of age, of a very full habit of body, came under my care. She had complained for eight days previous to this, and now become unable to do her work. There was typhus in the family at the time, which induced the medical gentleman in attendance to send her to the Fever-Hospital. She was therefore brought to Edinburgh in a cart, the distance of two miles; but instead of going directly to the hospital, she took up her quarters with her friends for the night. I saw her at 9 o'clock P. M.

She complained of headache, pain in the back, and a sense of fatigue and uneasiness all over the body. Pulse 86. I prescribed a table spoonful every hour while awake, unless sickness should be produced, of a solution of two grains of Emetic Tartar, and an ounce of sulphate of magnesia, in six ounces of water. 1st May, 11 o'clock A. M. Did not rest well; symptoms much as last night; has taken half the quantity of the medicine. Bowels costive. an ounce of Epsom salts, and continue the antimonial. 9 o'clock P. M. Salts operated once. Has taken all the antimonial. Experienced an approach to nausea, at one time in the course of the day. Considers herself much better. Headache not near so oppressive. Pulse 80. May 2d, 11 o'clock, A. M. Slept well; very little or no headache; pain in the back, and sense of fatigue, entirely gone. Pulse also declining. Take an ounce and a half of Epsom salts immediately, and continue the

antimonial. May 3d. Quite free from complaint. The patient returned to her service on the afternoon of this day.

CASE XIII.

On the 7th of May I was called to a young lady, who was taken ill the night before, without any known cause. She complained of headache and general uneasiness. Pulse 86. I began her with very small doses of Emetic Tartar dissolved in water, as I knew her constitution well. The second dose, containing not more than an eighth of a grain of the medicine, and exhibited at the distance of two hours from the first, occasioned sickness, and vomiting of a mouthful or two of pure bile, which gave temporary relief from headache. In

the evening the patient fainted on being taken out of bed. May 8th. Passed a very good night; pulse 80. Take an ounce of Epsom salts, and continue the antimonial in small quantity. May 9th. Headache quite gone. Pulse 72. May 10th, 11th. Pulse down to 64; and the patient considers herself well.

Thus were these two cases of fever cut short in limine, by the exhibition of Emetic Tartar,—continued in alterative doses as long as any re-action existed.

The power of Emetic Tartar in lowering the action of any organ in a state of inflammation, is in no case more conspicuous than in hernia humoralis. But it is not by exciting vomiting that I have found it beneficial in such cases. I always prefer it in alterative doses, as sufficient for every purpose in view, and having this advantage, that the patient takes it without scruple; whereas, if once nausea or vomit-

ing is produced, an insuperable aversion is, in most cases, ever after manifested to the medicine.

CASE XIV.

A GENTLEMAN contracted gonorrhoea, in which the inflammation run pretty high, and the discharge was copious. Circumstances rendering it necessary to keep up appearances, he could not confine himself. I advised abstemiousness at table, ease, cleanliness, and a saline aperient occasionally. In a few days he got hernia humoralis. The affection had reached the scrotum, which had become red, by the time the circumstance was communicated to me. I ordered suspension, and a solution of Emetic Tartar in water, of the strength of

half a grain to the ounce. Of this mixture he took an ounce every two or three hours; and the progress of the complaint was immediately arrested. The cure, indeed, of the hernia humoralis, was completed in one day. The medicine was continued in small quantity for some time, but not more than six grains of Emetic Tartar were taken, and there was no return of the complaint.

CASE XV.

A young gentleman having contracted gonorrhoea, was greatly alarmed lest the circumstance should come to the knowledge of his friends; and therefore insisted on having an injection, that the cure might be the more speedy. In a few days the

discharge had nearly ceased, when the patient was seized with pain and swelling in one of his testes. I prescribed Emetic Tartar in alterative doses, as the patient could not be confined. The pain soon abated, but was not altogether removed, on account of the extreme caution observed in taking the medicine, lest sickness should be induced by it. I remonstrated with him on account of his timidity, and he increased the dose, till slight nausea was only once produced. He abandoned the medicine, and I abandoned my patient. He then promised compliance, resumed the medicine for a few days, and the cure was completed.

CASE XVI.

Mr J. R. aged seventeen, came under my care on the 8th May for hernia humoralis. Had had gonorrhæa for two months, for which he used astringent injections at his own discretion. Pulse 92, full and strong; headache; pain in the loins; tongue foul, and skin hot. Ordered three grains of Emetic Tartar, and an ounce of sulphate of magnesia, in eight ounces of water. Of this, to take an ounce every half hour for three times, and then every hour, unless sickness should be produced.

8 o'Clock P. M.—Has taken about four ounces of his medicine, which occasioned sickness of short continuance, and vomiting of a mouthful or two of pure bile. Pulse 86; pain of the testis not abated. Has had no motion of the bowels to-day. Take of sulphate of magnesia an ounce;

and continue the antimonial in quantity short of occasioning nausea.

9th, 10 o'Clock A. M.—Pain of the testis, head, and loins, gone. Had one copious motion of the bowels; pulse 80. Continue the antimonial so as not to occasion nausea.

May 10th.—Pulse 64; swelling of the testis and redness of the scrotum scarcely perceptible; no pain any where. The patient, in short, is perfectly well. Continue the antimonial in small quantity for some days.

I think I may venture to affirm, that there is not another practitioner within the walls of this metropolis, who would not have employed blood-letting, general or topical, or both, in this case; and followed it up with fomentations. But would such mode of proceeding have been attended with success, either more rapid or more complete? Two grains of Emetic Tartar,

with an ounce or two of sulphate of magnesia, effected a cure in two days, without the slightest inconvenience to either the patient or his friends;—a circumstance this, that, had the practice no other advantage, would go far in recommending it to patients of this description. I must remark too, that the patient was but once nauseated by his medicine, and that only slightly;—an effect I intended at the beginning, in order the more speedily to check the febrile action.

CASE XVII.

A COUNTRY gentleman having contracted a most virulent gonorrhæa, applied to his surgeon, who prescribed refrigerant medicines and astringent injections. The

whole penis became irritable and inflamed. with much effusion in the prepuce. The discharge soon abated, but the other symptoms remained. In these circumstances the gentleman applied to me; desiring me above all things to put a stop to the discharge. I told him I would much rather see it return; and therefore prescribed a vegetable diet, and small doses of Epsom salts occasionally. In a few days hernia humoralis supervened, when I ordered a suspensory bandage and Emetic Tartar in solution. The pain and inflammation were quickly arrested. The patient kept at home, and continued the medicine for a few days, without experiencing nausea, increased perspiration, or any unpleasant symptom. And the cure was completed in every respect, in ten days from his first application to me.

Most authors affirm, that the testes, if once they swell, are never reduced to their

original size. I can freely state, however, that all the four preceding cases form exceptions to the general observation; and I can account for the facts on no other principle, than the increased action of the absorbents of the gland, from the medicine being continued for some time. If it should be asked, How a medicine which lowers the action of the system, can increase the action of any particular set of vessels? I answer, that we know from observation and experience, foxglove diminishes the irritability of the system, and increases the action of the absorbents.

CASE XVIII.

A young man applied to me for the cure of a gonorrhœa of very moderate symptoms. The discharge was never co-

pious, and soon disappeared under the use of small doses of a saline medicine internally, and an injection of a weak solution of acetate of lead. But an unpleasant sensation of heat remained along the whole course of the urethra, accompanied with a sense of fulness where Cowper's glands are situated; and an unusual nisus was required for the discharge of the urine. Leeches were recommended, but the patient had no opportunity of using them. I then prescribed the blue pill till the mouth was slightly affected; but the complaint remained unaltered. Recourse was then had to Emetic Tartar, in the form of pill, each of which contained a fourth of a grain of the medicine. Of these, two were taken at bed-time, and one in the course of the day. The patient had not used a dozen, when he experienced considerable relief; and a dozen and a half more completed the cure.

CASE XIX.

A woman about forty years of age consulted me in the course of last winter, with regard to a chronic affection of the bladder. She had laboured under the complaint for some time, and at last got the better of a false delicacy, which prevented her from asking medical aid. She had an incessant, obtuse pain in the region of the bladder, which increased with the accumulation of water; and evacuation was effected with difficulty and increased pain. I prescribed Emetic Tartar in the form of pill,—of a fourth of a grain each. Of these she was directed to take two at bed-time, and one in the course of the day, unless sickness or vomiting should occur. When she had taken two dozen, she returned and told me she was perfectly cured; nor did she ever experience the slightest sickness, or inconvenience of any kind, from the medicine. I never saw any person so grateful as was this woman, for the benefit she derived from my advice,—a certain proof this, that her complaint had been severe.

CASE XX.

I MENTIONED my success in the above case, to a surgeon in town, who had a lady under his care in similar circumstances. He immediately put his patient on the Emetic Tartar pills; and had the satisfaction of completing a cure in the course of ten days from that date.

CASE XXI.

On the 2d of April, a young gentleman consulted me for a constant uneasiness he felt about the region of the bladder, and which was increased by the accumulation of water. He made water with difficulty and increased pain. Dated his complaint from exposure, some time before, to cold and wet. I was satisfied, from the nisus requisite in expelling the urine, that the neck of the bladder was principally affected. I put him upon Emetic Tartar, with little or no effect for some days. At length the medicine began to operate; not, however, by any other sensible effect, than freedom from pain, and facility of making water. Two dozen of pills, each containing a fourth of a grain of Emetic Tartar, effected a complete cure.

CASE XXII.

A YOUNG gentleman, by indulgence in a detestable practice, induced such a state of irritability in the seminal vessels, that he had an involuntary emission every sixth night. This habit of the parts became so inveterate, as to set at defiance every mode of cure that had hitherto been found successful in such cases. Nitrate of silver promised fair, but ultimately failed of a radical cure. I then had recourse to Emetic Tartar in the form of pill,—a fourth of a grain at bed-time. He continued the medicine eighteen days, during all which time he had not a single return of his complaint. He now gave over the former, and the latter returned with a frequency and copiousness as if to make up for lost time. I advised the patient to allow the complaint to take its course for a short time. With this he complied, and it returned to

the old habit of recurring every sixth night. On the 1st of April he again resumed the Emetic Tartar, with perfect success, for three weeks. I then substituted nitrate of silver, and the cure promises to be permanent.

CASE XXIII.

On the 24th February, Mrs M. came under my care, afflicted with rheumatism in her ankles, knees, shoulders, and spine. She had been ill for some months, and could not walk a step. Pulse 112, and small. Is harassed with cough, especially in the night-time. Cannot make a full inspiration. Has a child six months old, which she suckles with the left breast. The right breast inflamed soon after delivery, and suppurated in several places successively. It is still greatly enlarged, indurated,

and inflamed at several points, and discharging at one or two openings. By compression and percussion, succeeded by bandages, the patient was enabled to walk betwixt her bed and the fire, at my first visit; and she never again lost the use of her legs. Before this, she was always carried by two women. In about ten days her inferior extremities were free from pain. Not so with the back and shoulders. Percussion here was inadmissible, on account of the breast. I therefore put her, from the beginning, on a solution of Emetic Tartar, in alterative doses. In the course of three weeks, the patient could suffer percussion on the trunk of the body, in any force admissible in a state of health,—the disposition to inflammation in the mammary gland being completely subdued. By this time its bulk was greatly lessened; it had become more soft and compressible; and, with the remaining rheumatic affection, was soon completely cured. I attribute

this speedy removal of a disposition to inflammation and suppuration in the mamma, to the Emetic Tartar alone.

In morbid determination of blood to the head, whether followed by inflammation, or merely occasioning congestion; I cannot conceive a more powerful auxiliary to blood-letting than Emetic Tartar. Powerfully relaxing the whole frame, and diffusing the blood to every part alike, it not only diminishes the force of the heart, and lowers the tone of the arteries, but must also diminish in proportion, the quantity of blood sent to the head. Exhibited, therefore, with judgement and perseverance, and in quantity short of occasioning vomiting, it bids fair to supersede the necessity of carrying depletion to the extent generally practised, when blood-letting alone is trusted to in such complaints. I have been informed by Surgeons in the Army, that they have seen blood-letting: carried to such a length, in Ophthalmia, as to induce debility, which terminated in typhus. Is it not likely, that Emetic Tartar would have assisted powerfully in resolving congestion, and equalizing the circulation, in such cases?

CASE XXIV.

On the 18th May, Mrs. L. aged thirty-six, was seized with frequent rigors and oppressive headache, which continued for three or four days. Her right eye then became inflamed, extremely painful, and impatient of light. I saw her on the evening of the 25th. The Adnata of the eye affected exhibited a mass of turgid bloodvessels, through which there was not a single white streak or speck to be seen.

There was great pain, difficulty of motion of the eye-lid, and a considerable flow of tears. Inflammation was just beginning in the left eye also. I could not ascertain the state of the pulse, as the patient had walked two miles. I ordered a solution of two grains of Emetic Tartar in six ounces of water; of which she was to take a table spoonful every hour, or every two hours, as she found it affect her.

May 26th.—Has taken five doses of the medicine without experiencing any effects from it. Does not think her eye any better. On examining it, however, I found she was not speaking the truth; and she acknowledged she was in a state of increased irritation, from having walked two miles under a burning sun, without any other shade than a handkerchief held to her eye. Inflammation in the left eye had not advanced, but rather receded; in the right eye it was sensibly decreased. Placing the patient's back, therefore, to the light, and

putting a shade over her eyes, she admitted she saw better, and could move her eyes with greater freedom. Continue the medicine in greater quantity.

May 27th, evening.—Inflammation of the right eye considerably abated; left eye as before. Took her medicine in the course of this day, so as to produce slight nausea.

May 30th.—Inflammation of the right eye greatly abated. Can suffer exposure to the light, and distinguish objects. Had a return of headache yesterday, with threats of the same sort of attack in the left eye as she experienced in the right; when she had recourse to her medicine, which, she believes, checked the inflammation. At all events, the inflammation is checked; and when we consider the course ophthalmia commonly runs; that it uniformly attacks both eyes in succession, if not simultaneously, with equal severity; there cannot be a doubt, that the credit of the cure is due to the Emetic Tartar employed. As

the Emetic Tartar kept her bowels in order, I purposely avoided giving this patient a single grain of any other medicine, a weak solution of acetate of lead excepted; that no doubt might be left of its powers.

June 1st.—The patient thinks herself perfectly well; active inflammation is completely subdued; the ball of the eye is decreased in size; the motion of the eye-lids is free; exposure to light gives no pain; the cure, in one word, is complete. Continue the medicine in alterative doses, for some days. A week after this I again saw this patient, when every trace of inflammation had disappeared. Here, then, is a case of violent ophthalmia membranarum, deep-seated, accompanied with pyrexia, cured in a week, and under very unfavourable circumstances, by a few grains of Emetic Tartar!

CASE XXV.

At three o'Clock P. M. on the 17th of June, I was called to Mr B. who had been complaining for some days of headache, and general uneasiness. Unable longer to maintain the contest, he came home an hour before I was called, and went directly to bed. Pain in the forehead and at the occiput was insufferable. His face was flushed; skin hot; pulse 96, full and strong. He complained also, of pains shooting through every part of his body, but particularly about his neck and chest. I proposed he should be bled immediately; which was peremptorily resisted by his mother.

R Tart. Antimon. et Potass. gr. ii. Aq. font. \(\frac{7}{2}\text{viii. solve.} \)

Capt. cochlear. mag. omni hora usque ad nauseam ciend.

9 o'Clock P. M. No alteration of symptoms. Has not taken a third of the quantity ordered of his medicine.

R Sulphat. magnes. zi.

Aq. Bullient. zvi. solve.—Quamprimum sumend.—Continue the antimonial solution.

12 o'Clock at night.—Headache rather increased; great restlessness; skin hot; pulse 96, full and strong; physic has not operated; not a drop more of the antimonial solution taken since last night. I now informed the patient, that he must either take his medicine, or suffer me to bleed him; otherwise I would no longer be responsible. He submitted to the first alternative; I therefore gave him a wine glass full of the antimonial solution with my own hand; and also a bolus, composed of ten grains of the mass of aloetic pill, and a fourth of a grain of Emetic Tartar, intimately combined. In less than an hour

he became sick, vomited a very small quantity; and in a short time fell into a profound sleep, which lasted five hours.

18th, 10 o'Clock P. M.—Headache greatly relieved; or rather entirely gone; skin moist and cool; pulse 74; bowels open. The patient got out of his bed before dinner; took another bolus in the evening; and next day was free from complaint.

This gentleman, though 23 years of age only, had lost, from epistaxis, and by the lancet, much more blood than ever was in his body at any one time. He observed the strictest temperance in his mode of living; but such was the determination of blood to the head, and so subject was he to inflammatory complaints, that he was under the necessity of losing blood to a considerable amount, so frequently, that his friends became heartily sick and tired of a mode of cure, which produced no lasting effect. These were their reasons for preventing me from letting blood at the be-

ginning;—reasons which certainly would have had no weight with me in circumstances so urgent, had my confidence in the sedative and febrifuge powers of Emetic Tartar been less than it is. The frequent use of this medicine in alterative doses, will operate, there is reason to believe, such a change in the distribution of the blood in this patient, as to supersede the necessity of blood-letting in future,

CASE XXVI.

On the 6th June I was called to an unmarried lady, aged thirty-six, whom I found labouring under Nephritis. She had been ill for a week previous, but the symptoms now became pressing; so that she was compelled to have recourse to medical aid, much against her inclination. She

complained of colic pains, with a sense of coldness and fulness of the abdomen; of costiveness, coldness of the feet, severe lancinating pain in the region of the kidneys, shooting along the course of the ureters and inside of the thighs, particularly the Urine scanty, high-coloured, and made with difficulty. Occasional sickness and vomiting. Pulse 100, and small. Tongue foul. Could not lie in bed, nor sit long in any posture, on account of the lancinating pain in the back and ureters. Had taken castor oil and other aperient medicines, which moved the bowels without relieving pain. I advised that twenty ounces of blood should be taken from the arm immediately; but the patient could not be brought to consent. Although offended with her obstinacy, I was secretly pleased at an opportunity, too precious to be let slip, of trying what Emetic Tartar would do in such a case. I therefore ordered a solution of two grains of Emetic

Tartar in four ounces of water; and of this a table spoonful every hour till nausea should be produced. This was at three o'clock P. M. I visited my patient at seven in the evening, when I found her in bed; and that she had taken only an ounce and a half of her medicine, for fear of being sickened by it. No other alteration of symptoms, than that she can lie in bed. Continue the medicine with demulcent drink through the night, while awake; and avoid lying on the back as much as possible.

June 7th.—Took several doses of her medicine early in the morning, which produced nausea and slight vomiting. These effects were succeeded by profuse perspiration, which I found the patient encouraging by a load of bed-clothes. Pulse 90, and softer. Feels the lancinating pain very seldom, and not so severely. Urine still scanty, high-coloured, and made with difficulty. Continue the medicine.

7 o'Clock P. M.—Continued all day in bed. Much the same in every respect as at last visit, the profuse perspiration excepted. Continue the medicine.

June 8th.—Pulse 86. Water is made with less difficulty, and in greater quantity, but very high-coloured. In other respects, as before. Bowels costive.

B. Sulphat. magnes. 3i. quamprimum sumend. Continue the antimonial solution. 7o Clock P. M. Did not take the salts, as the solution operated sufficiently on the bowels.

June 9th.—Lancinating pain in the back scarcely felt; coldness of the extremities and tension of the abdomen entirely gone; bowels open. Febrile symptoms greatly declined. Makes water at times freely; at other times has calls when none can be made. Continue the medicine.

June 10th.—In every respect much as yesterday.

June 11th.—Says she is quite well; can

make water freely; has had no pain for the last twelve hours. Continue the medicine for some days.

This was the most refractory patient ever I had to deal with. To no entreaty would she yield,—to no advice would she submit, unless it tallied with her own opinion. Had she been bled as I advised; or had she even taken her medicine as directed, and as she might well have done without any inconvenience; the cure, rapid as it was, would have been accomplished much sooner. Four grains of Emetic Tartar in little more than eight ounces of water, was the amount of all that was taken, and this with the utmost difficulty, in the course of five days. But these very circumstances demonstrate the powerful controul Emetic Tartar exercises over the system, and every organ in it, in a state of inflammatory action.

CASE XXVII.

A MEDICAL gentleman from England, who has been in practice for many years, consulted me in the latter end of April, concerning an hepatic affection of ten years standing. He also complained of rheumatism on the right side of the spine, and in the right arm. Had had two attacks of jaundice; and had undergone several courses of mercury. Being much engaged in practice, however, he could not pay that attention to himself that his complaints demanded. Had consulted Dr Bailey, and some other eminent physicians in London and elsewhere, who agreed there was an affection of the liver. Being desirous of having percussion applied to his back and arm, I began it with very gentle force, on account of a sensation of painful concussion which it occasioned in the region of the liver. I likewise recommended

small doses of Emetic Tartar, to be continued as the patient could bear it. He began with an eighth of a grain at bedtime, every other night. Even this minute quantity produced sensible relaxation of the whole frame. So much so, indeed, that the patient was not much in love with the practice. Concurring in opinion with me, however, as to its mode of operation, and encouraged by its effects in those cases of obscure inflammation above detailed. he continued the medicine. About a fortnight ago, (25th May), he took a fourth of a grain at bed time, which occasioned sickness in the night, but not vomiting. I promised him the happiest effects from this occurrence; and was not disappointed. The cough to which he had been subject for a great length of time, now left him. His countenance began to clear up. He can bear pressure on his right side with ease; and experiences much freer motion of the trunk of his body. He continues

the medicine; and I have no doubt, it will operate a complete cure.

It is worthy of remark, that this gentleman also experienced a pleasant sensation in the parts affected, from the first doses of the medicine. He felt as if the disease in his back and arm was about to leave him. This sensation, however, became gradually less observable. These two facts (cases 11. and 27.) cannot but be regarded as strongly corroborative of what I have already advanced; that Emetic Tartar has a direct influence on the nervous system; that it is sedative and febrifuge, independently of exciting the action of the stomach, the bowels, and the skin. It is impossible, indeed, to explain its operation on any other principle, in the majority of the cases here recorded.

Such are the effects I have observed from Emetic Tartar, in general and local; acute and chronic inflammation;—effects,

to say the least of them, sufficient to draw the attention of the profession to this important remedy. And if the observations and facts I have related shall have this effect, my object will be accomplished.

The fact of Emetic Tartar having particularly arrested the attention of such men as Cullen, Fordyce, and other eminent physicians, is a strong presumption that it possesses qualities which have escaped the observation of others. When by one individual only, properties are ascribed to a particular remedy, which have eluded the research of all others, though sufficient pains may have been taken to detect them; there is room for scepticism and caution. But when the same observations are made by a succession of individuals, to whose judgement and opinion the profession shew deference in other matters; there is good reason to con. clude, that such observations are not without foundation; and that it is owing to prejudice, or supineness, or both, they are not confirmed by others. That a strong

prejudice against Emetic Tartar has existed in this country,—that it has been falling into disuse for the last twenty years, and that the ideas entertained of its powers are general, vague, and undefined, are truths which cannot be successfully controverted, whatever may be pretended to the contrary. Ten days have not elapsed (21st May 1818) since one of the most eminent physicians of this city, and to whom the medical profession, and mankind in general, are under great obligations, frankly acknowledged to me, he had not, of late years, used it at all in inflammatory complaints. This I knew to be the fact, but was better pleased to have it from his own mouth. About the same time, another physician, whose name will also descend to posterity, as a promoter of science, and benefactor of the human race, told me, when I informed him what I was about, "that Cullen nauseated with Emetic Tartar, many a poor patient out of existence." Is it to be expected then, that

a medicine is in general use, which is held in little estimation by one physician, and abhorred by another,—to both of whom, the younger part, and those in the humbler walks of the profession, are accustomed to look up?

Emetic Tartar is said to be inadmissible where there is great debility; and in advanced stages of Typhoid fever. But upon what principle? Certainly on account of its lowering the action of the system, already too low. This proves, then, that it must be highly beneficial in the inflammatory stage of fevers, when the action of the system is too high. This proves, that Dr Cullen's practice of exhibiting liberally, when the system is in a state of morbid tone, a remedy so powerfully relaxing and sedative, as Emetic Tartar manifestly is, must be considered the result of profound knowledge in Pathology.

From the facts narrated, it may be fairly inferred, I think, that Emetic Tartar must be highly beneficial in every genus and

species of inflammation, whether chronic or acute; those affections excepted, in which the stomach is generally so irritable, that it is not probable the medicine could be retained in sufficient quantity to have much effect on the circulation. We have seen its effects in symptomatic fever, induced by local injury,—in several severe cases of pneumonia,—in inflammatory gout, —in rheumatism, chronic and acute,—in cynanche tonsillaris,—in idiopathic fever, in hernia humoralis,—in chronic inflammation of the bladder,—in inflammation of the mamma,—in ophthalmia,—in chronic hepatitis,—in nephritis:—It certainly is not carrying analogy too far, to anticipate similar beneficial effects from it, in other kinds of inflammation, and in inflammatory affections of other organs.







,

